

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 were pending in the application. Claims 1-4 and 10 have been amended. Claims 15-19 have been added. No claims have been canceled. Therefore, claims 1-19 are pending and submitted for consideration.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection: Rahmstorf

Claims 1-6 and 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,106,003 (“Rahmstorf”). Independent claims 1, 4 and 10 have been amended. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Rahmstorf fails to disclose, teach or suggest flaps that “are provided with a hinge portion formed in the cover ... and wherein each hinge portion is formed as a linear concave groove,” as required by claims 1 and 4, and similarly in claim 10. Rahmstorf discloses an interior trim panel fitted with an airbag. The panel includes a supporting member 3 with a film cover 1 that is provided on the supporting member’s 3 visible face. Padding 2 and a cutting metal sheet 4 are located between the supporting member 3 and cover 1. The rear side (side opposite padding 2) of the supporting member 3 includes a notch 5. The notch 5 does not extend through the supporting member 3 and, thus, the notch 5 is clearly not “formed in the cover” as called for in claims 1 and 4. *See* Rahmstorf at Figs. 3 and 4. Furthermore, the notch 5 is part of an opening in the panel, and is clearly not a hinge.

Additionally, the cover 1 does not include any “hinge members” that are formed as “linear concave grooves” as required by claims 1, 4 and 10. The cover 1 is merely a film cover that is capable of opening due to the metal cutting sheet 4 puncturing the film cover 1. Therefore, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3, 5-6, 9, 11-13 and new claims 15-19 depend from claim 1, claim 4 or claim 10, and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable subject matter set forth in these dependent claims.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejection: Derrick

Claims 1-12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,550,803 (“Derrick”). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested for at least the following reasons.

Derrick does not disclose, teach or suggest flaps that “are provided with a hinge portion formed in the cover ... and wherein each hinge portion is formed as a linear concave groove,” as required by claims 1 and 4, and similarly in claim 10. Derrick discloses an airbag covering 10 comprising a plurality of tear lines 12-19 that break when the airbag inflates. See Derrick at Figs. 2 and 3. Derrick does not disclose laterally arranged flaps that rotate about hinges. Rather, the covering 10 only discloses having tear lines 12-19. There is no suggestion in Derrick of hinge portions that are formed as “linear concave grooves.” Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1, 4 and 10 are respectfully requested.

Claims 2-3, 5-9, 11-12, 14 and new claims 15-19 depend from claims 1, 4 or 10, and are allowable therewith, for at least the reasons set forth above, without regard to the further patentable subject matter set forth in these dependent claims.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for

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such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to
Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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